SUPPLEMENT TO THE
BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL

LONDON SATURDAY FEBRUARY 1 1941

Correspondence

The New War Damage Bill

SIR,—Dr. Henry Robinson (*Supplement*, January 25, p. 10) very properly reminds the medical profession that it is very deeply concerned with the provisions of the above Bill. As regards the voluntary part of the scheme—our private goods and chattels—he adds that it will be of interest to discover the reactions of the insurance companies on this matter. At the moment they are rather in the dark, but here is a personal experience gained only yesterday. The insurance company consulted strongly advises their clients to make an inventory *now* of everything in the house, and to deposit one copy with them. In the average household this can usually be done without seeking professional aid.

If the householder's ordinary peacetime fire policy only covers his goods and chattels for one-fourth of their value—say £500—and he now seeks war protection to the maximum of £1,500, he will find it difficult to convince the Government that he is not either under-insured or over-insured, with a consequent subsequent loss to himself. The company consulted therefore advised that both the peace and war policies should be for the same amounts. Under these conditions a war premium on, say, £1,000 will cost about £25 per annum, payable only for the duration, with any necessary readjustment in the peacetime premium. The reverse position is discussed by Dr. Robinson in his article.

With only partial destruction of goods and chattels from enemy action the insured person without an inventory may experience considerable difficulty in obtaining even an approximate compensation. The compilation of the inventory so strongly urged upon us is a staggering and illuminating commentary on what one stands to lose in the way of clothes alone. Try it and see, and do not forget your wife's fur coat. —I am, etc.,

Bristol, Jan. 25. RICHARD J. A. BERRY.

Medical Calling Up

SIR,—There appears to be a great deal of misgiving among members of the medical profession as to who should and who should not be called upon for service in the Forces, and, judging from the weekly list of casualties in the medical services published in the *British Medical Journal*, it is obvious that there is a growing demand for medical men for the Forces both at home and abroad. I would like to suggest that instead of expecting general practitioners to abandon their practices in order to join up the public health departments all over the country should be carefully scrutinized with a view to ascertaining how many medical men below the age of 45 can be spared from those departments for service in the Forces. These men can be more conveniently released from their civilian posts than general practitioners, as there are many of 45 years or less who are medical officers of health or assistants who, I think, will be anxious to join up if released by their councils, and who can be replaced for the "duration" by either assistants above the age of 45 having sufficient experience, or retired medical officers and assistants willing to do duty for a time to ease the situation.

Further, I would suggest that in calling upon medical men for compulsory service they be selected from those in the age groups 40 to 45 years or more first, leaving the lowest groups (usually those who are newly qualified) to be called up last, so that they will have an opportunity of gaining some experience before joining the Forces. This will also prevent those of the 40 to 45 age group from slipping into a category that may be considered too old for service.—I am, etc.,

Warrington, Jan. 22. C. A. PAULUSZ.

Bonus for Local Government Officers

SIR,—Although this does not affect me personally, I would like to take the opportunity of thanking the British Medical Association for persuading the present Minister of Health to reverse the rather extraordinary decision of his predecessor in this matter. You may be assured that the successful efforts of the Association will be widely appreciated by those concerned.—I am, etc.,

G. B. PAGE,
Exeter, Jan. 20. Medical Officer of Health.

DOCTORS MUTUAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME IN ACTON

Dr. H. L. Sparrow, chairman of the West Middlesex Division of the British Medical Association and of the Local Medical War Committee, has sent us the following details of a scheme providing assistance for doctors and their practices in the borough of Acton.

The object of the scheme is to afford professional assistance to any practitioner practising in or near the boundary of Acton in the event of his being killed by enemy action or incapacitated for the same reason, or his house or surgery being rendered uninhabitable. It is not the intention of this scheme to interfere in any way with the working of the Middlesex Protection of Practices Scheme; it is intended only to tide over the practitioner (or his executors) until his practice is disposed of or he has sufficiently recovered to resume work, or his house has been made usable or he has found other suitable premises.

It is suggested that Acton be divided into areas with an area officer in each, to whom the doctor or his representatives can immediately appeal for assistance. Each area officer will hold a list of six or seven practitioners who have expressed their willingness immediately to look after whole or part of the practice of a colleague. Work so done will be free, and any private patients attended by any acting doctor will be charged by him and the fee refunded at stated intervals to the practitioner for whom he is acting. If a doctor's premises are rendered unusable and the doctor himself is not injured, the area officer will, on application, arrange with a neighbouring practitioner for the temporary use of his surgery. It is suggested that such assistance would be granted for a period not exceeding one month, but this period could be extended with the approval of the committee.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNIZATION

The text of a letter on this subject, which has been sent by the Secretary of the British Medical Association to Medical Officers of Health in England and Wales, was published in the *Supplement* of January 11, 1941. Section (*d*) of the Association's scale of fees is as follows:

> (*d*) These fees are inclusive of a report to the local authority. The report should be as simple as possible, providing for the name of the patient, the date of the inoculation(s), the amount and name of the reagent used, the identification number of the reagent, and the result of the immunization.

A medical officer of health has suggested that the form of report should include the address of the patient in addition to the other details mentioned. The address is an important means of identification, especially in county areas, where it enables the immunized persons to be more readily classified in their respective towns and villages.

DENTAL BOARD GRANTS

The Dental Board has been compelled by the reduction of its income consequent upon war conditions to discontinue the allocation hitherto made of large sums of money for dental research. The maximum which the Board found it possible to allocate for this purpose in 1940 was £250. In many instances research work, apart from any question of the Board's grants, has been suspended, but the Board has been anxious to provide, within the limited amount mentioned, for those cases in which dental research is still being pursued but might be closed down if the grant were not forthcoming. With this in view it has made a grant of £50 to the University of Birmingham in order that certain facilities in the dental research department may remain in being. The following grants by the Board in aid of teaching schools, on certain specified conditions, have been accepted: three grants at the rates of £500, £250, and £250 a year to the University of Birmingham towards the salaries of a professor of dental surgery, an assistant clinical instructor, and a demonstrator in dental pathology; two grants of £325 and £175 to the University of Liverpool towards the salaries of a demonstrator in conservative dental surgery and a demonstrator in orthodontics; two grants of £250 to the School of Dental Surgery of the Royal Dental Hospital of London in aid of the salary of demonstrators in the orthodontic and conservation departments; two grants of £500 and £250 to the University of Sheffield towards the salaries of a professor in dental surgery and a lecturer and demonstrator in dental mechanics, and a grant of £200 a year to the University of Leeds towards the salary of a demonstrator in prosthetic dentistry.

Medical Services of H.M. Forces Appointments

ROYAL NAVY

Surgeon Lieut.-Commander D. F. Walsh to be Surgeon Commander.

ROYAL NAVAL VOLUNTEER RESERVE

Probationary Surgeon Lieuts. D. Rice, C. A. J. Sampson, S. A. Swanson, and C. W. Levitt to be Surgeon Lieutenants.

Probationary Temporary Surgeon Lieuts. J. H. A. Jewell, H. T. L. Broadway, R. C. Bennett, J. H. Cobb, and A. J. G. Pullar to be Temporary Surgeon Lieutenants.

ARMY

Colonel J. T. Johnson, D.S.O., retired, late R.A.M.C., has reverted to the rank of Lieut.-Colonel at his own request whilst employed during the present emergency.

ROYAL AIR FORCE

Flight Lieut. T. C. Macdonald has been promoted to the war substantive rank of Squadron Leader.

Flight Lieut. N. Mackenzie has relinquished his short service commission on account of ill-health.

Flying Officers A. G. Burke and W. R. Parker to be Flight Lieutenants.

ROYAL AIR FORCE VOLUNTEER RESERVE

Flying Officers D. Wilson, D. St. C. L. Henderson, and B. B. Botha to be Flight Lieutenants.

Flying Officers A. N. H. Peach, B. A. E. Harley, J. North, D. W. Mahon, M. Hamilton, W. R. Mackie, J. G. Moloney, and J. Evans have been promoted to the war substantive rank of Flight Lieutenant.

J. P. Griffiths to be Flying Officer.

The notification in the *London Gazette* of December 20, 1940, concerning J. L. Trent and J. G. M. McMurchy should read Flying Officers and not Pilot Officers.

The notification in the *London Gazette* of December 31, 1940, concerning W. Poskett should read W. Foskett.

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

Colonel E. M. O'Neill, D.S.O., has ceased to belong to the Reserve of Officers on account of ill-health.

TERRITORIAL ARMY

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

Supernumerary for Service with Glasgow University Contingent (Medical Unit) O.T.C.—E. W. Walls, late Cadet Lance-Corporal, Hillhead High School Contingent (Junior Division) O.T.C., to be Lieutenant.

TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS: ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

Captain S. G. Reed has ceased to belong to the Territorial Army Reserve of Officers on account of ill-health.

LAND FORCES: EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

The surname of Lieut. A. A. Alderdico is as now stated, and not as notified in the Supplement to the *London Gazette* dated July 19, 1940.

Lieut. H. Ferguson has relinquished his commission.

Dr. (Lieut.) Mrs. Mabel G. Bain has relinquished her appointment.

Lieut. B. G. Kelly has resigned his commission.

Lieut. J. Garden has relinquished his commission on account of ill-health.

To be Lieutenants: J. Brown, J. L. Macaulay, J. R. Dunn, H. Sington, P. H. Deeny, T. W. Sweetnam, F. E. Adams, T. R. Hill, N. Hockman, T. A. Kelly, D. W. Moynagh, W. F. Nicholson, M. A. Shellim, J. Kay, J. W. Dent, C. T. Gasking, F. Lanceley, J. M. Mair, J. H. Ramage, R. W. Panton, I. A. B. Cathie, L. G. Cook, R. J. V. Pulvertaft, H. S. Leeson, G. D. McDowall, A. G. N. Calder, S. Chatterjee, J. W. Clark, A. I. Clein, B. R. M. Johnson, A. L. McLeod, H. J. Newlands, A. B. Lintott, N. Rosen, W. M. Shearer, R. M. Solomon, G. R. Taylor, D. C. Williams, J. D. Ballantine, T. H. C. Barclay, E. F. M. Caraher, K. W. Evans, I. S. Eve, E. G. Hardy, W. F. A. Heron, W. N. Hine, J. M. Knight, D. G. McRobbie, B. O. Moore, R. S. Patrick, J. Speer, J. A. Weir, J. A. Liley, B. Freedman, F. H. B. Fuller, B. A. Furniss, R. H. Isaac, Y. Preniiski, J. P. Jackson, L. E. D. Knights, G. Mann, R. K. Pillay, R. S. Risk, I. Segal, R. S. Stevenson, P. S. Thorne, F. R. Turner, H. R. Anand, R. L. Coulter, I. M. Davies, G. Farrer, W. N. Gilchrist, R. W. S. Harvey, W. G. Hendry, W. Herbert, J. F. Heslop, J. G. Gillan, E. Joffe, J. S. Kerss, A. McLellan, W. W. Newman, J. M. Peden, A. N. Stirling, K. W. Todd, H. A. Tuck, J. McD. Dougan, L. Redhouse, J. S. Barker, F. B. Youge, P. W. Dill-Russell.

B.M.A. LIBRARY

The following volumes were added to the Library during November, 1940.

Aris, N.: Parents and Children. 1940.
Bailey, H., editor: Surgery of Modern Warfare. Parts I and II. 1940.
Berman, J. K.: Synopsis of the Principles of Surgery. 1940.
Britton, H. T. S.: Chemistry, Life, and Civilization. 1940.
Brown, W.: Psychology and Psychotherapy. Fourth edition. 1940.
Conybeare, J. J., editor: Textbook of Medicine. Fifth edition. 1940.
Cutler, E. G., and Zollinger, R.: Atlas of Surgical Operations. 1939.
Dayton, N. A.: New Facts on Mental Disorder. 1940.
Drummond, J. C., *et al.*: Nation's Larder. 1940.
Fraenkel, G., and Gunn, D. L.: Orientation of Animals. 1940.
Kronfeld, P. C.: Introduction to Ophthalmology. 1938.
Macintosh, R. R., and Pratt, F. B.: Essentials of General Anaesthesia, with Special Reference to Dentistry. 1940.
Miller, W. S.: The Lung. 1937. Reprinted, 1940.
Mottram, V. H.: Healthy Eating. 1940.
New York Academy of Medicine. March of Medicine. 1940.
Nicholls, L.: Tropical Nutrition and Dietetics. 1938.
Pearce, E.: Fevers and Fever Nursing. Fourth edition. 1940.
Pugh, W. T. G., and Pugh, A. M.: Practical Nursing. Twelfth edition. 1940.
Rolleston, Sir H., and Moncrieff, A. A., editors: Modern Diagnosis. 1940.
Whitwell, J. R.: Syphilis in Earlier Days. 1940.
Witmer, H. L.: Psychiatric Clinics for Children. 1940.
Wolff, E.: Anatomy of the Eye and Orbit. Second edition. 1940.

B.M.A.: Branch and Division Meetings to be Held

STAFFORDSHIRE BRANCH: NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE DIVISION.—Joint meeting with North Staffordshire Medical Society. Sunday, February 2, 11 a.m. Dr. P. W. Edwards: Practical Hints on Wartime Food Problems.

WEEKLY POSTGRADUATE DIARY

EDINBURGH POSTGRADUATE LECTURES.—At Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, *Thurs.*, 4.30 p.m. Prof. R. J. S. McDowall: The Physiological Approach to Medical Problems.

DIARY OF SOCIETIES AND LECTURES

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—At Royal Society of Medicine, 1, Wimpole Street, W., *Mon.*, 3 p.m., Mr. F. Ronald Edwards, Dried Plasma: Its Preparation and Administration for the Syndrome of Shock.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE

General Meeting of Fellows.—Tues., 3.30 p.m. Ballot for election to the Fellowship.

Section of History of Medicine.—Wed., 2.30 p.m. Paper by Dr. J. D. Rolleston: Medical Aspects of Saint Simon's Memoirs.

Section of Surgery.—Wed., 2.30 p.m. Presidential Address by Mr. J. B. Hunter: The Emergency Medical Service and the Future.

Section of Otology.—Fri., 10.30 a.m. Discussion: The Psychological Aspects of Deafness. Openers, Prof. H. Frey, Dr. A. B. Stokes, and Mrs. Irene R. Ewing.

Section of Laryngology.—Fri., 2.15 p.m. Discussion:—Adenoids: Their Influence and Methods of Removal. Openers, Mr. V. Negus, Adenoids, with Reference to Methods of Removal; Mr. W. Stirk Adams, The Influence of Adenoid Infection on Nasal Sinusitis in Children.

APPOINTMENTS

BORHAM, J. D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Examining Factory Surgeon for the Southwold District (Suffolk).

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS

The charge for inserting announcements under this head is 10s. 6d. This amount should be forwarded with the notice, authenticated with the name and address of the sender, and should reach the Advertisement Manager not later than the first post Tuesday morning to ensure insertion in the current issue.

MARRIAGE

ELLIS—RUSSELL.—On January 18, 1941, Richard W. B. Ellis, M.D., F.R.C.P., Flight Lieutenant, R.A.F.V.R., to Audrey Eva Russell, M.B., B.S.

DEATH

WILLIAMS.—On January 16, at Nant-y-wern, Peterston-super-Ely, Glamorganshire, George James Williams, M.D., late of Weshbridge, Haltwhistle, Northumberland, in his seventy-sixth year.